

## CLAIMS

1. A method for operating a team configuration, formed of a plurality of subscribers, in a system formed of a plurality of mutually connected telecommunications devices, the method comprising the steps of:

5 providing process instances for each subscriber in each of the telecommunications devices for normal telecommunications operation;

setting up at least one of a real and an imaginary instance for each subscriber in each of the telecommunications devices; and

10 enabling the telecommunications devices to communicate with one another with equal priority.

2. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 1, wherein, for a team configuration with  $n$  telecommunications devices, each subscriber is assigned one real instance and  $n-1$  imaginary instances.

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3. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

20 signaling each status change of a subscriber only once to a partner telecommunications device, wherein team functionality is controlled via the imaginary instance assigned to the subscriber at the partner telecommunications device.

4. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:

25 identifying at least one of a failure of one of the telecommunications devices and a failure of a routing path to one of the telecommunications devices;

ending, automatically, an existing team call upon identification of the failure; and

resetting all the call statuses.

5. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 4, wherein switching statuses of the subscribers are not refreshed in response to reactivation of the failed telecommunications device.

5 6. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

configuring the team configuration via a program which is independent of any operation control and which is implemented in one of a data processing device externally connected to the system and one of the telecommunications devices.

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7. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of implementing team performance features over the entire system wherein the team performance features include signaling of team calls, signaling of busy states via an optical display at an appropriate terminal, a capability to receive a team call, a capability to directly call a subscriber in the team via a function key, a capability to allocate a call to a subscriber in the team via a function key, a capability to activate/deactivate distribution of one's own calls in the team, and a capability to activate/deactivate signaling of other team calls at one's own terminal.

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8. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the signaling of a team call is freely programmable via the function key on a respective telecommunications terminal.

25 9. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 7, wherein team calls are signaled acoustically via one of a normal call and a short call.

10. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 7, wherein team calls are signaled visually on one of a display and the function key of the respective telecommunications terminal.

5 11. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the team performance feature of receiving a team call, activating/deactivating the signaling for other team calls on the telecommunications terminal of a subscriber, and activating/deactivating the distribution of one's own calls in the team are each carried out via a specific function key on the  
10 telecommunications terminal.

12. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the team performance features of receiving a team call, activating/deactivating the signaling of other team calls on the telecommunications terminal of a subscriber, and activating/deactivating the distribution of one's own  
15 calls in the team are each carried out via a menu item in a visual menu control system.

13. A method for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the step of incorporating purely virtual subscribers  
20 having their own telephone numbers but no real instances.

14. A system for operating a team configuration formed of a plurality of subscribers, the system formed of a plurality of mutually connected telecommunications devices, each telecommunications devices comprising:  
25 a team controller associated with a control of system telecommunications terminals;

first and second internal interfaces associated directly with the control of the system telecommunications terminals, and

first and second external interfaces, addressed indirectly by the control of the system telecommunications terminals, as configuration and signaling connections for team-internal signaling.

5           15.    A system for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the first and second internal interfaces connect the control for the system telecommunications terminals, and the team control, to one of a central operating technology component and a central switching component.

10           16.    A system for operating a team configuration as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the first external interface connects the central operation technology component to one of a corresponding component in another telecommunications device and a configuration tool, and the second external interface connects the central switching components of two telecommunications devices to one another.